

VZCZCXYZ0024
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHDG #0142 0291517
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 291517Z JAN 08
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0041
INFO RUCOWCV/CUSTOMS CARIBBEAN ATTACHE MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHLA/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEPINS/HQ BICE INTEL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFHLC/HQS DHS WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 000142

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CAR WARD, L/LEI FOR TORRES AND MUELLER
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR CRIM/OIA FARRAR AND KRANTZ
US MARSHALS SERVICE PLEASE PASS TO JIM SCHIELD
DEA FOR OF, OFI, DO, DCO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CJAN](#) [CVIS](#) [KCRM](#) [SNAR](#) [DR](#)

SUBJECT: DOMINICAN FUGITIVE CONTRERAS EXTRADITED TO THE
UNITED STATES

REF: 2007 STATE 121414

11. On January 24, U.S. Marshals returned Rick Rogelio Contreras to the United States to appear before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas on charges of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, as well as possession with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine, as detailed in indictment number L-07-378, filed on March 13, 2007. The facts contained in the indictment indicate that Contreras was involved in an international drug trafficking organization that transported kilogram quantities of cocaine into the United States that were hidden in secret compartments of automobiles and that the organization did distribute that cocaine in the United States. The facts also indicate that this organization exported drug proceeds from the United States in a similar manner with the ultimate destination as the Dominican Republic.

12. The Contreras case was brought before the Dominican government on August 30, 2007, by virtue of an Embassy diplomatic note. Following this request, the Criminal Chamber of the Dominican Supreme Court issued a provisional arrest warrant. On October 31, 2007, pursuant to that warrant, Contreras was apprehended by officers of the Dominican Republic's National Directorate for Drug Control's fugitive apprehension unit.

13. Contreras challenged his extradition before the Criminal Chamber of the Dominican Supreme Court. The Court's decision upholding extradition was issued January 9, 2008.

14. Contreras is the second Dominican-national fugitive returned through the extradition process during CY-2008 (the 6th for FY-2008).
FANNIN